

**WATCHWORDS**  
**By Officer Tom Hanshaw**  
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Police typically handle several missing person reports each day and most are closed quickly. When the missing person suffers from a medical condition, however, there is a greater urgency to find them. The numbers of children diagnosed with autism and older people with dementia continue to skyrocket. This presents a number of challenges to family members given the task of providing care to loved ones. Caregivers often face a dilemma of how they can assure proper medical care and patient safety.

The Amesbury Fire and Police Departments have begun a campaign to inform residents about an available service, which may help provide caregivers with a better sense of security. Several years ago, the police department received equipment from Project Life Saver, which is a national company committed to finding people who suffer from medical conditions and become lost. The person is fitted with a wristband, about the size of a watch, which contains a small transmitter. The transmitter emits a constant radio signal, which can be detected by receivers, stored at the Police Station. These mobile units can be quickly activated, tuned to the proper frequency and used to assist in the search of the person, if they become missing. The technology was actually developed many years ago and used in the popular “Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom” television show to track animals in the wild.

We are pleased to continue our partnership with Project Life Saver and now welcome the Lo Jack Company as well. A recognized public safety provider, Lo Jack has now introduced the “Safety Net” service, which is available to help caregivers protect loved ones with cognitive conditions, such as autism and Alzheimer’s, who may wander. Using the same type equipment, Lo Jack combines a proven technology with an affordable price to provide peace of mind. Police Officers and Firefighters have been trained in the use of the equipment and four units are available to emergency personnel. This enables responders to provide a more effective search and rescue of those at risk.

***How SafetyNet Works***

Once caregivers enroll their loved ones in the service, they receive a SafetyNet Bracelet, which is worn by the person at risk typically on their wrist or ankle. The caregiver provides information about the client to assist in search and rescue, which is then entered into a secure database. The LoJack SafetyNet provides 24x7 emergency caregiver support. For public safety agencies like Amesbury, LoJack SafetyNet provides Search and Rescue Receivers, certified training and ongoing support at no cost.

The SafetyNet Bracelet constantly emits a Radio Frequency signal. Radio Frequency is the technology of choice because, unlike cellular and GPS technology, its signal doesn’t rely on cellular networks or satellite signals. The Radio Frequency can often be tracked when a client wanders into a shallow body of water, a densely wooded area, a concrete structure such as a garage, or a building constructed with steel.

The Search and Rescue Receivers can detect the Radio Frequency signal emitted from a

SafetyNet Bracelet typically within a range of approximately one mile in on-the-ground searches and 5-7 miles in searches by helicopter.

The certified training for public safety agencies focuses on the use of specialized electronic equipment, technology, operating procedures and on how to effectively communicate with and approach individuals who have cognitive conditions. SafetyNet's secure database contains information on each individual client enrolled in the program so that our search and rescue teams can have information on the individual's physical characteristics, personal habits and how he or she should be approached, addressed and comforted.

**To learn more information about this valuable service, please call (877) 4-FINDTHEM (877-434-6384) or visit [www.lojack.com/safetynet](http://www.lojack.com/safetynet) and the Amesbury Police web site.**